

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government is not aware of any such crisis.

(b) Government is implementing a number of schemes for upliftment of handloom weavers in all the States, including Uttar Pradesh. A scheme to provide margin money to destitute weavers has also been launched during the current year for the benefit of weavers living below poverty line. During the Eight Plan period, greater emphasis will be laid on training, upgradation of skills, modernisation of looms, provision of marketing support etc., to graduate weavers to value added products as also for products suitable for export market.

(c) Silk handloom items valued at Rs. 319.85 crores, Rs. 383.51 crores and Rs. 307.59 crores were exported during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. Productwise data are not maintained. Banarasi sarees are normally exported to the countries like Canada, United Kingdom Mauritius, and Singapore.

[English]

Ben on Candidates Contesting from more than one Constituency

1482. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of candidates file their nomination for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections from more than one constituency;

(b) whether this causes great problems to the electoral process; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to restrict candidates to contest elections from one constituency only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Some candidates tend to file their nomination from more than one constituency.

(b) If a person is elected to more than one seat in Lok Sabha of the State Legislative Assembly or both in the Lok Sabha and State Assembly, he has to resign from all but one of the seats. In all these cases a bye-election has to be gone through involving lot of expenditure to the exchequer as well as to the candidates and political parties and also inconvenience to the voters in voting time and again. In case such a contesting candidate dies, the election from all the constituencies from where he is contesting will have to be countermanded.

(c) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which is pending consideration in Rajya Sabha inter-alia seeks to provide that a person shall not be nominated as a candidate for election in more than one constituency of the same class.

Impact of Import Squeeze on Customs duty Collections

1483. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether import squeeze has adversely affected the customs duty collections;

(b) if so, the gap between the budget estimates and actual collection of customs duty during the current year till date; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government is taking all possible steps, like tightening of tax administration, faster clearances of goods and reducing the time between importation & ultimate clearances of goods etc. to contain the shortfall in customs revenue. Action has also been taken to reduce arrears and thereby increase collections under Income Tax, Corporate Tax and Excise duties so as to minimise the shortfall in total tax revenue collections. As these measures have been taken only recently, it is too early to estimate the likely final collections, and consequently the gap between the Budget figures and likely actual receipts.

[Translation]

Trade with Singapore

1484 (h). SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of trade between India and Singapore at present; and

(b) the details of the goods imported and exported during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). According to the DGCI&S, in the period April-August, 1991, India's exports to Singapore were Rs. 351.84 crores and imports from Singapore were Rs. 545.05 crores.

Major items of exports to Singapore include oil meals, gems and jewellery, non-ferrous metals, cotton yarn, fabrics and made-ups, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, leather & manufactures, man-made yarn, fabrics, made ups, marine products

and electronic goods. Items of imports from that country are machinery and machine tools, electrical machinery, transport equipments, ores and metal scrap, project goods, artificial resins, plastic materials, professional instruments, optical goods, iron and steel, organic chemicals etc.

[English]

Production and Export of Silk

1485. SHRI V.S. VUJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to increase the production and export of silk during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the countries to which silk is exported and the total amount of foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Silk Board have fixed a production target of 14060 M.Tonnes of raw silk for 1991-92. The export target from 1991-92 is Rs. 55 crores.

(c) The main countries to which Indian silk is exported are: USA, United Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Spain, UAE, France, Australia, Singapore, Switzerland, Hongkong, Netherlands, Austria, Japan and Belgium.

The export of silk goods during the last three years is as under:-